



PROJECT: Indian Ridge Marsh, Cook County, Illinois

AUTHORITY: WRDA 1986

TYPE: Continuing Authority, Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Indian Ridge Marsh parcel covers about 145 acres between Lake Calumet to the West and the Calumet River to the east in the southeast side of Chicago. The parcel is bounded by 116th street on the north, Torrence Avenue on the east, the Calumet River on the south, and the Norfolk and Western railroad on the west. Specifically the Indian Ridge Marsh site was used for the disposal of slag from steel making operations and dredged materials from the Calumet Harbor and River during the 1970's. Large portions of the marsh were filled with dredge material from disposal activities of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since then, lower quality wetlands have been reestablished throughout the site. The poor hydrology of the disturbed area has isolated the wetlands and ponds, allowing the wetlands to become overgrown with the non-native species and reducing the diversity of native aquatic life. The project will enhance and naturalize pond features and habitats; re-create and monitor prairie areas; re-introduce native plant species to woodland areas; and protect restored areas while encouraging public access.

CURRENT STATUS: The Preliminary Restoration Plan approved in October 1999.

PLANNED WORK:

FY 01

Complete the Ecosystem Restoration Report and 80% Plans and Specifications.

FY02

Complete Plans and Specifications, and complete 50% Construction.

PROJECT COST:

Federal Cost	\$5,000,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$1,700,000
Total Cost	\$6,700,000

BENEFITS: The project will restore this area as a higher quality, self-sustaining, environmentally valuable natural area.

LOCAL SPONSORS: The City of Chicago is the Local Sponsor.

ISSUES/CONCERNS: None

PROJECT MANAGER: Kirston Buczak